

The Council is grounded in prevention and works to ensure justice by building equitable and effective opportunities for children, youth and families to thrive in Vermont.

**Children and Family Council or Prevention Programs
Meeting Agenda January 20, 2022, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Zoom Meeting Invite or Phone**

Members Present: Bob Sheil, Donn Hutchins, Katherine O’Day, Kreig Pinkham, Laurey Burris, Linda Johnson, Christopher Lukasik, Matt Wolf, Mackenzie Mazza, Mike Loner, Stu Berry
Partners Present: Elizabeth Morris, Rachel Larson, Tyler Allen

Approval of January Meeting Notes. Passed.

Youth Services Committee Update:

Committee has continued to work on a survey for youth drop-in centers. They believe that youth drop-in centers are key to ensuring that youth are engaged and empowered in their community (this is one of their top objectives in their three-year plan). They are reaching out to learn more about the resources and needs of those youth drop-in centers to see what is currently in operation. Hope to final the survey questions in March.

Vermont Afterschool is partnering with Lydia Mercer, founder of the (Un)Learning Space, to offer a workshop focused on “Bias & Privilege for Grant Reviewers” in early March. They plan to host three sessions and invite readers/reviewers of the small delinquency grant applications, Council members, and Council partners. The full cost is \$6,000 for the three sessions, they would be thrilled if the Council could cover the full \$6,000 cost, but if that is not possible, they would appreciate any contribution. Please see the letter on page 2 of the meeting notes for Holly Morehouse for more information. This is training for council members, partners, etc., so would come from the SAG operating dollars. We have a little under \$40,000 left in SAG operating from the 2019 and 2020 formula grant.

Vote to accept Vermont Afterschool’s proposal for the full \$6,000 cost of the training. Unanimous consent. Vote passed.

Christopher Lukasik had to step out of the Council teams call for a work-related meeting.

SI Committee Update:

The Systems Improvement Committee discussed S. 224. This is a Senate Judiciary Committee bill related to juvenile proceedings – raise the age and youthful offender. After reviewing the legislation, the System Improvement Committee voted to recommend to the full Council that the Council send a letter to the House Judiciary Committee supporting the bill with some recommendations for amendment. The amendments we recommend are to Section 10 of the bill which amends 13 V.S.A. 5234 – the Rights of Victims in Delinquency Proceedings Involving A Listed Crime, specifically to 5234(c) which as currently written would allow victims to be present during all proceedings and to express reasonably the victim’s views concerning the offense and the youth. The Committee’s recommends that the Council offer language to clarify that (1) a victim would not be able to offer views concerning the offense and the youth at a Merits hearing unless it is part of the victim’s testimony; and (2) a victim could be excluded by the Court from a disposition hearing if sensitive matters are going to be discussed that do not relate to either the offense or to the victim.

Council members concerns on the amendments as suggested by the SI Committee:

- Concerns about creating any restrictions on the victim being in the court room during adjudication. There is already a process for doing this called a motion to sequester witnesses. Judges decide these motions based on the facts in each case and it should stay that way. There are valid reasons to have a victim in the trial courtroom, not the least of which is that it may be necessary for the victim’s own healing. When it comes time

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to discuss the juvenile's issues and treatment needs during disposition, Rachel understands why advocates don't feel it is appropriate for victims to be there, but she doesn't see a similar rationale during adjudication. Rachel personally has benefitted from having victims with her during trial since they know the facts better than she does and can help her understand witness testimony.

- Due to the concerns raised, and the fact that Amy is not present, and that Christopher had to step off, it was decided to wait to take any vote until Christopher returned.

ERD Committee Update:

- Continuing their work to move their work into a smaller committee – a smaller group of 4 or so members connected to determine job duties of a potential racial equity consultant. Some of the potential job duties include one-on-one work with Council members, then a review of the organizational structure of the Council including but not limited to; by-laws, membership, leadership, meeting structure (time, location, setting, facilitation). This is NOT cultural humility or implicit bias work – this is past that. Other SAG's across the nation have a specific Racial and Ethnic Disparity Coordinator that assists the SAG with this work.

Governance/Nominating Committee

- Today no one "owns" the CFCPP Nominating process. The annual CFCPP election/appointment processes are not defined in bylaws or elsewhere and recruiting/maintaining CFCPP representation consistent with statutory requirements is difficult. We need to make sure we are recruiting, maintaining and energizing youth membership and participation.
 - Many of the CFCPP's oversight documents and governance processes are outdated and can be improved
 - a. Position descriptions for members, committee chairs, and officers
 - b. CFCPP Committee Charters
 - c. New CFCPP member recruitment
 - d. New member orientation process
 - e. Annual Nominating process for CFCPP leaders
 - f. CFCPP evaluation processes
 - g. Leadership development and planning processes

Next steps: Volunteers will work as a small task force to bring back to the Council in March. The Council should establish an official governance and nominating committee as a CFCPP standing committee. Volunteers include Karen Vastine, Sparks, Kreig, Donn, Rachel, Matt, Stu.

Christopher has arrived back at the meeting. **Motion: Council is in support of the letter to the senate judiciary regarding S.224 as proposed by the Systems Improvement Committee with the two pieces of clarity suggested by the committee. The letter should be passed to the executive committee for approval and then passed to the Council. Seconded. Friendly amendment to the motion that it be sent to the house and senate judiciary committee. Vote: one abstention from Katherine O'Day. All others vote yes. Passed.**

Governor's Report – Calendar Year 2021

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- As we near the end of the calendar year, we look forward towards writing and submitting our annual report to Governor and Legislature. Please see the draft in your meeting materials. This draft mirrors past year's reports and mainly reviews the funding related work that you have done as a Council.
- Instead of embedding the language into the annual report – a cover letter will be written and placed on top. This will help separate the language that Elizabeth has written on behalf of the Council and also emphasis the points the most important juvenile justice related educational points for the Governor/Legislature.

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January 19, 2022

To the Members of the Children & Family Council for Prevention Programs (CFCPP),

Vermont Afterschool is partnering with Lydia Mercer, founder of the [\(Un\)Learning Space](#), to offer a workshop focused on "Bias & Privilege for Grant Reviewers" in early March. The virtual workshop will be offered three times so that grant readers and reviewers can have a choice in which session they would like to participate. Each of the workshop options will be held virtually and capped at 20-35 participants. In total, through this effort 60 to 105 readers who will be actively reviewing and scoring grant applications from youth-serving organizations in Vermont will be trained in awareness of bias and privilege in grant reading. The workshops are designed to involve the following: a participatory approach, continuous learning, a cohesive strategy and scope, courageous safe spaces, and a partnership with the (Un)Learning Space to work together to set up the conditions for collective change.

The 75-minute workshop will be based in the (Un)Learning Space's philosophy of growth and change:

- reaching INWARD creates space to connect with self,
- connecting with self provides capacity to reach OUTWARD, and
- capacity to reach outward creates the possibility for COLLECTIVE power to reimagine and change current systems.

Because of our new grant with the Council, we plan to invite readers/reviewers of the small delinquency grant applications that we will be receiving to participate in this opportunity. Council members are invited to participate as well. The specific dates and times for the workshop options are yet to be confirmed but we are looking at the first or second week of March 2022. We plan to offer two daytime options and a later afternoon or evening option.

The cost of offering this important workshop for the three sessions is \$6,000. The cost we've been quoted includes a \$1,500 discount because of our non-profit status. We do not currently have a grant or other funding source to cover this expense but feel that it is not only the right thing to do, but also critical to the success and development of the grant programs we are involved with. Because of this, we are actively seeking assistance with funding and would like to ask the Council to consider contributing to the cost of bringing these equity-related sessions to readers/reviewers of grants for programs serving Vermont's youth and families. We would be thrilled if the Council could cover the full \$6,000 cost, but if that is not possible, would appreciate any contribution you might be able to make.

Thank you for your consideration and partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly Morehouse". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Holly Morehouse, Executive Director